

Legislative Federal Economic Stimulus Program Oversight Commission
Department/Agency Questionnaire
December 22, 2009

ARRA program: STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against
Women Act Formula Grant Program
Office on Violence Against Women
U.S. Department of Justice

Project title: OVW RECOVERY ACT STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant
Program 2009-X2081-HI-EF

Award number: 2009-EF-S6-0021

1. **For each group/category or program/project for which ARRA funds have been obtained, please provide the following information:**

(a) **A brief summary of the program/project, including goals;**

This Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program is intended to increase safety for women victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The goals are to improve law enforcement, prosecution, and court responses to victims of these crimes, and to improve services to the victims.

(b) **Whether funds were appropriated for expenditure by a federal agency, were awarded as a formula/block grant to a State or county agency, or were awarded on a competitive grant basis;**

Formula grant.

(c) **Whether matching funds are required, and, if so:**

- (i) **Are they available;**
- (ii) **Have they been secured;**
- (iii) **If they have not been secured, why not; and**
- (iv) **Will the State be required to continue that match or provide increased/full funding in the future;**

The State has obtained a waiver of the match requirement.

(d) **If there are additional requirements to receive funds, what are they;**

By federal statute, VAWA grant funds must be distributed as follows: 25% to law enforcement agencies, 25% to prosecuting agencies, 30% to nonprofit victim service providers, 5% to the courts, and 15% at the discretion of the State. (The

discretionary funds are usually allocated to nonprofit service providers.) VAWA grant funds cannot be used for prevention activities or services to children, unless the victimization of the child is intrinsically linked to the victimization of the woman (for example, a woman and her child in a domestic violence shelter). Standard federal grant requirements also apply -- for example, no supplanting, no discrimination, no lobbying, drug free workplace, equal employment opportunity.

- (e) **The amount of funds involved and the state/federal fiscal year within which the funds must be expended (e.g. SFY 2009-2010 or FFY 2009-2010);**

Amount of fund involved: \$1,047,877

The funds must be expended by April 30, 2011.

- (f) **What criteria were used to identify the program/project as a priority and how does the program/project meet them;**

Hawaii receives a VAWA grant every year. The Department solicits projects based on the priorities established by the VAWA Statewide Planning Committee and the Implementation Plan approved by the Committee. The current priorities are:

Victim Services: Core Services for Adult and Teenage Female Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking, which include but are not limited to Advocacy; Case Management; Counseling; Crisis Response; Increased accessibility by special populations including the disabled, immigrants, and victims with substance abuse or mental health issues; Legal Assistance; Shelter; and Transitional Services.

Law Enforcement: Training; Specialized Equipment to Assist in Investigations; Crisis Response; Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants (victim assistants in police departments)

Prosecution: Vertical Prosecution; Training

Multi-disciplinary Training and Staff Support Efforts: Support and promote multi-disciplinary training, encourage coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts, and provide incentives for valuing and retaining staff.

Outreach to Underserved: Increase and fund outreach programs that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and competent to underserved communities.

Coordination of systems response: Support and promote a coordinated, managed systems (law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services) response, including coordinated system advocacy and services for victims

of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The Committee members are the Attorney General (chair), the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, the Chief of the Maui Police Department, the Chief of the Kauai Police Department, a Judge of the Family Court of the First Circuit, the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center, the Coordinator of the Hawaii Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Executive Director of the Domestic Violence Action Center, the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and the United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii (non-voting). In general, the Committee includes two Police Chiefs and two Prosecuting Attorneys, on a rotating basis. Program staff of the member agencies also attend Committee meetings.

(g) Efforts undertaken to coordinate application for funds and administration of the program/project, including expenditure of funds, with other federal, state, and county agencies;

On March 19, 2009, the Department facilitated a meeting with the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, and the Judiciary to review the needs and the distribution of funding by these agencies to domestic violence and sexual assault service providers.

All county Police Chiefs and Prosecuting Attorneys, as well as representatives of the Judiciary, were invited to the VAWA Statewide Planning Committee meeting on March 24, 2009, where the Committee reviewed its priorities and the Department's draft application for the ARRA VAWA funds.

The sub-grant application review panels will include personnel from various state and county government agencies.

(h) The criteria used to select activities for the program/project;

Sub-grant applications from government agencies (law enforcement, prosecutors, and the Judiciary) will be scored based on their problem statement, goals and objectives to address the problem, project activities to accomplish objectives, project organization and management, personnel, performance indicators and outcome measures, and probability to improve the criminal justice system.

Sub-grant applications from nonprofit service providers will be scored pursuant to state procurement statutes and rules governing requests for proposals.

In both cases, a multi-agency review panel will be used.

- (i) **Efforts made to provide public notice and seek public comment/input or, if public comment/input was not sought, why;**

The VAWA Statewide Planning Committee meeting on March 24, 2009 was open to the public. At this meeting, the Committee approved the implementation plan proposed by the Department. Later, the Committee members provided support letters for the Department's application. The Department held a Request for Information meeting on May 7, 2009; the meeting notice was posted on the State Procurement Office website on April 24, 2009.

- (j) **Efforts made during the bidding/award process to ensure that it was transparent and that the funds were awarded based on merit and in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner;**

Please see section 1.(h) above.

- (k) **Measures employed to: (1) reduce duplication of efforts, (2) ensure that funds were used for authorized purposes, and (3) prevent cost overruns, fraud, waste, error, and abuse;**

The Department will review applications to ensure that there is no duplication with other known funding sources, and that the activities and budget items are allowable and reasonable. The Department will conduct desk monitoring (review of program reports and fiscal reports) and site visits, using established grant administration procedures, to verify compliance.

- (l) **Current status of the program/project, including percentage of awarded funds that have been obtained, percentage of awarded funds encumbered and/or expended, and what part(s) of program/project have been completed; and**

As of December 15, 2009, the Department has spent \$366 of administrative funds. The Department has hired a Planning Specialist to administer this grant. In January 2010, the Department will issue solicitations for proposals from criminal justice agencies and a request for proposals from nonprofit service providers. The Department expects that sub-grant awards will be made in March 2010.

- (m) **Actual or anticipated economic impact to the State of the program/project, including the number of jobs saved/created and the long-term public benefits of the program/project.**

Number of jobs saved/created: This number will be determined after the sub-grants are awarded.

Public benefit: Improvements in the ways the criminal justice system addresses violent crimes against women; and provision of services to these crime victims by nonprofit agencies.

2. **For other programs/projects, if ARRA funds, such as competitive grants, were available for a program/project but were not sought or were denied, please briefly describe why the funds were not sought or why they were denied.**

Only coalitions and agencies that operate transition houses were eligible to apply for ARRA VAWA competitive grants.

3. **Please describe:**

- (a) **Any legal/operational barriers/constraints encountered in the award, receipt, encumbrance, or expenditure of funds, including procurement, late/delayed federal guidance, and reporting requirements;**
- (b) **The effect of those barriers/constraints; and**
- (c) **If and how they were mitigated.**

A Special Condition of VAWA grants limits the amount of funds that a state can obligate before the U.S. Office for Violence Against Women (OVW) approves the state's Implementation Plan. The Department received notice of this grant award on May 15, 2009, and submitted the Implementation Plan to OVW for approval on July 6, 2009, but did not receive approval until October 29, 2009. This caused a delay in implementing the award.

The Department also experienced difficulty in recruiting qualified candidates for the three Planning Specialist positions that are necessary to administer the Department's ARRA grants.

